

FISHING FOR SHARKS.

The Life-Saving Industry Indulged In the Gilbert Islands.

Special Correspondence of The Florida Star.

HONOLULU, Nov. 1.—Shark fishing is a dangerous business. To realize the risks continually encountered by those depending on the capture of the vicious fish for a livelihood one should see the natives of the Gilbert Islands as they launch their frail canoes and paddle seaward in their quest. The shark, or Jack, as it is called by the natives, is valueless from a commercial point of view, but to these islanders he is the source of all, or nearly all, their income. The islander exchanges Jack's fins and tail with the trader for tobacco, calico, guns, ammunition and gin. The native's wife when she meets her brown skinned lord and master on the beach as he returns from fishing looks anxiously into the blood stained canoe to see how many kapakans, as fins are called, he has taken. Two or three dozen, when dried, mean to her a new hat, trimmed perhaps with a bright green ribbon on a red and yellow background, that the trader showed her some time previous. Then she picks up the "take," puts it into a basket, and an hour later Jack's motive power is suspended on a line between two coconut trees, drying for market.

Wonderfully constructed craft are their canoes. They are made of small strips of wood sewed together with a coconut twine called clunet. Perhaps 20 or more canoes go out together. There is no need to go far. Just outside the reef will answer. There Jack is waiting, accompanied by relatives of many different sizes, male and female. Lying upon the grating of crossed sticks reaching from the outrigger of the canoe to the gunwale is the tackle. Rude it is, but effective. It consists of a naturally formed wooden hook, cunningly trained when it was a young tree root into the proper shape, and 40 fathoms of strong coconut fiber rope as thick as whale line and fully as strong.

Taking a flying fish or a piece of a shark caught the previous day, the native ties the bait around the curve of the great hook. Then he lowers the line. It sinks quickly, as the hook is heavy. Perhaps, if Jack is a big fellow, he will obstinately refuse to turn after swallowing the hook and will make a strenuous effort to get away deep into the blue gloom of a hundred fathoms below. Meanwhile every other canoe has probably hooked a shark, and there is a wild clamor and much bad language as the lines get fouled and canoes bang against each other. Perhaps four or five will be in a bunch, one or two sharks lashing the water into foam in the middle and turning over and over with lightning rapidity in the hope of parting the line or smashing the outrigger. The latter result is usually fraught with much danger.

After the lapse of considerable time the natives who are fast to the largest shark may possibly call to their comrades that the fish is too powerful to bring alongside and kill and will ask for an implement known to whalers as a drogue—a flat piece of wood which, attached to the end of a line, gives such resisting power that the shark or whale dragging it behind is soon exhausted. The drogue is passed along from some other canoe and then made fast to the end of a small but strong line. At the loose end of the line is a noose, and as Jack lifts his tail out of the water the steersman slips it over, and away go the line and drogue, the man who is holding on to the main line casting all of the slack overboard, so as to give the shark plenty of room in which to exhaust himself.

Another method employed by these islanders in killing sharks is to swim about in the infested waters with a knife clutched between the teeth, and when Jack approaches the swimmer grasps the knife in his hand and thrusts it to the hilt into the shark's stomach. This is a very hazardous undertaking, however, and, as it frequently results in the death of the native, it is not at all popular.

THOMAS F. CLARK.

Wilson & Son guarantee every bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and will refund the money to anyone who is not satisfied after using two thirds of the contents. This is the best remedy in the world for la grippe, coughs, colds, croup and whooping cough and is pleasant and safe to take. It prevents any tendency of a cold to result in pneumonia.

No Puzzle to the M. D.

Wilton—Do you know, I'm in a quandary.

Tilton—Well, what is it?

Wilton—Dr. Bloss gave me some stuff for my appetite, and it was so effectual that it costs me nearly twice as much to live as before. What puzzles me is whether I ought to pay the doctor or he ought to pay me something.—Boston Transcript.

Editor's Awful Plight.

F. M. Higgins, editor Seneca (Ill.) News, was afflicted for years with piles that no doctor or remedy helped until he tried Bucklen's Arnica Salve. He writes two boxes wholly cured him. It's the surest pile cure on earth and the best salve in the world. Cure guaranteed. Only 25c Sold by B. R. Wilson & Son, druggists. 5

NATIONAL IRRIGATION CONGRESS.

The Government's Vast Area of Reclaimable Land.

Special Correspondence of The Florida Star.

CHICAGO, Nov. 26.—Nature has done very much for the United States in giving to us so large a variety of climate and soil, and inventive man has done much in improving the natural opportunities that lie scattered so profusely over most sections of our country. Much, however, still remains to be accomplished, and it is the purpose of the national irrigation congress, just held here, to see that some of it is done. The United States still owns nearly 1,000,000 square miles of unoccupied territory outside of Alaska and our newly acquired lands. Most of this has been rejected by settlers because of its aridity, but so far as the soil is concerned nothing is lacking to make it fruitful but a plentiful supply of water. Those interested in irrigation—and they are many—who have been gathered here believe that this can be supplied and have devoted their time to discussing the ways and means.

Although the subject of irrigation has attracted some attention in a few of the eastern states, the land where it is needed lies chiefly in the west. It must be understood that the trouble with this arid land does not lie in many localities in a lack of rainfall. There is a sufficiency of the latter, but the nature of the soil does not permit of its retention. From this and other causes the arid region is almost without lakes or other natural reservoirs. The topography of the country is, however, such that the construction of artificial reservoirs would be comparatively easy if undertaken under proper direction and supervision.

In many instances the arid land of the west has been reclaimed and made fertile by irrigation secured by private individuals and corporations. The disadvantage to the nation at large of allowing this important work to be done by private parties is that they thereby secure control of the water supply. They then forever afterward hold the key to the situation, and, looking only to their immediate benefit, the work is not done as well as if carried out by the government on a comprehensive, well balanced plan. Private irrigation is apt to become a monopoly and the water rates excessive. Unless the work of irrigation is done by the government, local, state or national, it is more apt to be a hindrance than a benefit to a locality. For this reason those interested in irrigation are seeking the aid of the national government.

Both of the great parties in their national platforms are committed to the support of measures looking to the extension of irrigation by the government. The department of agriculture has already done much work in the way of preliminary surveys of reservoir sites and forest preservation. It is hardly necessary to explain that the preservation of forests exercises a correspondingly beneficial effect on the water supply of a region.

The arid region of the United States lies in Arizona, southern California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming and the portions of Oregon and Washington lying east of the Cascade range. It is much smaller than formerly, for there have been thousands of attempts, more or less successful, at irrigation and the sinking of artesian wells.

The motto of the irrigation congress is, "Save the forests and store the floods." The circular which was sent throughout the country read: "The magic touch of water will work this transformation. The conservation of the water supplies must therefore be first accomplished. The forests, which are nature's storage reservoirs, must be preserved, and the waters that now go to waste in destructive floods must be stored in great reservoirs and saved for beneficial use. The national government is the only agency through which this can be accomplished."

The programme of the congress, though ambitious, bids fair to be fully carried out. The work is clearly one of necessity and will amply repay the government for the time and labor to be expended on it. The Great American desert, that bugbear of early travelers, is already to a large extent a matter of memory, and if the plans of the congress are carried out it will become entirely so. The successful experiments in irrigation when carefully done by private parties assure success by the government.

HENRY W. MILLER.

For the Teeth.

Mix one ounce of charcoal, as much quinine as will lie on a dime, five grains of magnesia and a few drops of attar of roses. Both a soft and a hard brush should be used and the upper teeth brushed from the top downward, the lower teeth from the bottom upward. The inside of the teeth requires to be brushed in the same way. Besides the usual brushing twice a day the teeth should be brushed with soap three or four times a week. This is not at first pleasant, but it is very beneficial to the teeth. Soap is an alkaline preparation, besides being antiseptic, and it also helps to remove the tartar.

An Apt Amendment. Years ago a bill entitled "An act for the preservation of the beaver and other game" was introduced into the New York house of assembly.

The speaker of the house, who was not especially interested in matters of this kind, gravely read it. "An act for the preservation of the beaver and other game."

He was blissfully unconscious of his blunder until an honest member from the northern part of the state who had suffered from the depredations of the frontier Indians rose to his feet.

"I should like to move an amendment to the bill," he said mildly, "by adding the words, 'except Indians.'"—Youth's Companion.

Bottle Free to Sufferers.

Deep-seated, obstinate cases, the kind that have resisted doctors, hot springs and patent medicine treatment, quickly yield to B. B. B. (Botanic Blood Balm) thoroughly tested for 30 years. Have you mucous patches in the mouth? Sore throat? Eruptions? Eczema? Bone pains? Itching skin? Swollen glands? Stiff joints? Copper colored spots? Chancres? Ulceration on the body? Hair and eyebrows fall out? Is the skin a mass of boils, pimples and ulcers? Then this wonderful B. B. B. specific will completely change the whole body into a clean, perfect condition, free from eruptions, and skin smooth with the glow of perfect health. B. B. B. drains the poison out of the system so the symptoms cannot return. B. B. B. builds up the broken down constitution and improves the digestion. So sufferers may test B. B. B. a trial bottle will be given away free of charge.

B. B. B. for sale by druggists at \$1 per large bottle, or 6 large bottles (full treatment) \$5. Complete directions with each bottle. Be sure the bottle reads Botanic Blood Balm. For trial bottle, address BLOOD BALM CO., Atlanta, Ga. Describe trouble and free medical advice given. Call on J. B. Screven, druggist, Greenville, for B. B. B.

The Devoted Wife.

The Devoted Wife—Oh, hurry, please. This rubber plant tub has fallen on my husband, and I'm afraid he's smashed! Chorus of Rescuers (as they grasp the tub)—Now, all together!

The Devoted Wife—Gently, please, gentlemen. Don't lift it too suddenly. It's got a new leaf just coming out!—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

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When the Hair Falls Out

swollen glands, aching muscles and bones, the disease is making rapid headway, and far worse symptoms will follow unless the blood is promptly and effectually cleansed of this violent destructive poison.

S. S. S. is the only safe and infallible cure for this disease, the only antidote for this specific poison. It cures the worst cases thoroughly and permanently.

My Condition Could Have Been No Worse.

In the fall of 1897 I contracted Blood Poison. I tried three doctors, but their treatment did me no good; I was getting worse all the time; my hair came out, ulcers appeared in my throat and mouth, my body was almost covered with copper colored spots and offensive sores. I suffered severely from rheumatic pains in my shoulders and arms. My condition could have been no worse; only those afflicted as I was can understand my sufferings. I had about lost all hope of ever being well again when I decided to try S. S. S., but must confess I had little faith left in any medicine. After taking the third bottle I noticed a change in my condition. This was truly encouraging, and I determined to give S. S. S. a thorough trial. From that time on the improvement was rapid; S. S. S. seemed to have the disease completely under control; the sores and ulcers healed and I was soon free from all signs of the disorder; I have been strong and healthy ever since.

L. W. SMITH, Lock Box 611, Noblesville, Ind.

is the only purely vegetable blood purifier known. \$1.00 is offered for proof that it contains a particle of mercury, potash or other mineral poison. Send for our free book on Blood Poison; it contains valuable information about this disease, with full directions for self treatment. We charge nothing for medical advice; cure yourself at home.

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